

Belvedere: December 9, 2004

Jerry Butler

Jit Pandher

Corte Madera:

Proiect Manager

Melissa Gill Department of Transportation, District 4 111 Grand Avenue P.O. Box 23660

Fairfax: Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Lew Tremaine

Larkspur:

Joan Lundstrom

Re: Marin 101 HOV Gap Closure Project

Mill Vallev:

Dick Swanson

Dear Mr. Pandher:

Novato:

Pat Eklund

Ross:

Tom Byrnes

San Anselmo:

Peter Breen

San Rafael: Al Boro

Sausalito: Amy Belser

Tiburon: Alice Fredericks

County of Marin: Susan Adams Hal Brown Steve Kinsey Cynthia Murray Annette Rose

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you and your right-of-way agents Marin's recently approved transportation sales tax and how it might affect Marin's 101 HOV Gap Closure Project. As you now know, Marin's transportation sales tax included some significant funding for the 101 HOV Gap Closure project to be able to provide certain enhancements to the originally proposed and programmed project.

As we discussed the next step is to work on an amendment to the Marin County Congestion Management Agency/Caltrans Financial Contribution Agreement (District Agreement No. 4-1938-C), for this project to incorporate these project elements and related funding. Please prepare a draft for our review. The Measure A enhancements to be evaluated include:

Segment 3, Central San Rafael

Aesthetics improvements to the 101/580 ramp structure, including extending the bridge structure to reduce the height of the retaining wall.

Segment 4, Puerto Suello Hill

- Sound attenuation with sound absorbing material on the eastern soundwall through Puerto Suello hill. The only Caltrans approved material at this time is Soundfighter. We request Caltrans make efforts to work with alternative suppliers like Pyroc.
- Landscaping the right-of-way on the eastern side of the eastern soundwall along Belle Avenue and Villa Avenue. As we discussed at our meeting, the City of San Rafael just received a \$220,000 EEMP grant for this element and would be the lead agency to implement this element, and Caltrans will issue and encroachment permit.
- Relocation of the western soundwall through Puerto Suello hill to west of the proposed railroad tracks, and sound attenuation with sound absorbing material.

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A bike path from Mission Avenue to Merrydale Road. SMART has developed two alignments to be
evaluated. These have been provided to you. MCBC requests a third alignment be evaluated
which would shift the railroad right-of-way and tracks west. We welcome any other alignment
developed by Caltrans. Since these options may require additional right-of-way, we request that
any property proposed to be surplused in this area be put on hold until a final alignment is selected.

We need to develop a process to evaluate and make decisions. Initial alternatives analysis for the last two bullet items should be at a 30% or "PSR" level of detail. We request Caltrans complete any required environmental clearance required for these enhancements. Further, we request that environmental compliance for these enhancements be coordinated with SMART to avoid duplicating tasks and to avoid any conflicts between the two environmental documents.

We would also like to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), outlining the decision-making process, communication protocols, and outreach. We desire a greater level of communication with the public regarding progress on construction related issues than currently exists, such as lane closures and traffic delays, and beginning and ending of major work elements.

As we discussed, there are a few elements in the existing project scope that also require decisions and public outreach, those items are:

- Redwood soundwall
- Structure aesthetics in both Segments
- Landscaping elements, including the property along Brookdale Avenue

We would like to incorporate the decision making process for these items also into the MOU. Please prepare a draft.

As we discussed, we are committed to delivering these two segments in their current schedule or sooner. The schedule we have agreed upon is:

Segment	CTC Vote	Construction start	Construction completion
3 Central San Rafael	8/05	1/06	11/06 W. Francisco 12/08 Hwy 101
4 Puerto Suello Hill	8/06	1/07	12/08
5 Landscape			

As we discussed, we do not have a schedule for Segment 5, landscape. Our desire is to finish Segment 5 on or near completion of the other segments. Please provide a timeline for Segment 5.

Sincerely,

Craig Tackabery
Executive Director

c: TAM Gap Closure Subcommittee (Commissioners Boro, Brown, Adams)
Art Brook, Transportation Engineer
Andy Preston, San Rafael Public Works Director
Lillian Hames, SMART
Denis Mulligan, GGBHTD